

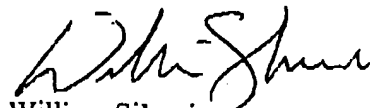
In re: Nicholls  
Appl. No.: 09/315,680  
Filed: CPA Filed Herewith  
Page 3 of 4

39-40, and 'rate information' (amended claim 86) is referenced at col. 10, line 36. Applicant believes all claims are in condition for allowance.

### CONCLUSION

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted;

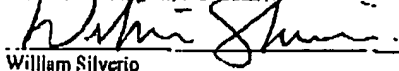


William Silverio  
Registration No. 45,383

CUSTOMER NO. 00826  
ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000  
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL 928 376 635 US  
Date of Deposit: January 22, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

  
William Silverio

In re: Nicholls  
Appl. No.: 09/315,680  
Filed: CPA Filed Herewith  
Page 4 of 4

**MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Please amend Claims 55 and 86.

55. (Amended) A logistics management method for facilitating the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, said shipper having a computer-implemented client application that has access to a network and which is related to shipping said goods, said client application having a set of rules by which the shipper ships, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a rate server having a set of rules by which the carrier transports in order to determine data related to shipping the goods;

providing access to said rate server [to data] on said network from the client application such that said rate server is separately located from said client application on said network; and

communicating the determined data from said rate server to said client application through [a supervisory server] an interprocess communication mechanism connected to said network and thereby isolating the set of rules by which the shipper ships from the ruled by which the carrier transports.

86. (Amended) A delivery management tool, comprising:

at least one rate server having rate information based upon a set of rules by which a carrier delivers;

at least one client configured to collect input information from a user;

at least one supervisory server including at least one computer configured to provide registration services to facilitate communication between the rate server and the client via a client/server architecture utilizing an inter-process communication mechanism, said communication being independent of said supervisory server; and

[at least one interface to the rate server configured to isolate] whereby the rules by which the user operates are isolated from the set of rules by which the carrier delivers.